

- Infrastructure Development
- Market Development
- Quality Development
- Research Development
- Market Development Assistance
- Transport Assistance

Utilization of funds

3351. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry was able, during the first four years of the Tenth Five Year Plan, to use only Rs. 361 crores out of an amount of Rs. 2,800 crores allotted;

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry in their explanation for under utilization of the funds and accepted that they had no projects; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that a large number of NASA and food processing units have been put to serious trouble because his Ministry did not use the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has utilized Rs. 336.86 crores during the first four year of the 10th Five Year Plan against a Budgetary allocation of Rs. 360.96 crores. The reasons for under utilization of funds include absence of viable projects from entrepreneurs, especially for infrastructure scheme, lack of dedicated project management agencies to ensure implementation of projects, lack of adequate backward linkages etc. However, these deficiencies are now being addressed during the 11th Plan period with the proposed revamping of Scheme for Infrastructure Development, engagement of project management agencies, establishment of Special Purpose Vehicles for implementation of project, etc. and decentralisation of the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Industries.

The Ministry processes applications for financial assistance and sanctions grants under various Plan Schemes on the basis of the applicant units fulfilling the required criteria and furnishing of relevant documents. The entire budget allocation for the year 2006-07 has been utilized.

Establishment of mega food parks

†3352. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various steps being taken to establish the mega food parks in different States;

(b) whether the process of setting up mega food parks has already been initiated in some States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) & (c) The Ministry has proposed a new scheme of mega food parks in the country which is envisaged to be a well defined agri/horticultural processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The proposed scheme aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimize wastages and improve farmers' income. The Ministry has initiated the process of getting conducted feasibility studies for setting up of mega food park in the country. The scheme which includes setting up of 30 Mega Food Parks with a higher level assistance of a ceiling of Rs. 50 crore each, is under consideration/consultation with Planning Commission for inclusion in the XI Five Year Plan and upon approval of the scheme, formal proposals would be invited.

Expansion of Food Processing Industries in Karnataka

3353 SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.